



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

Pacific Islands External Affairs Office

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Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Program Kicks Off

Grab your paints and sketch pads - the 2006 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is underway. The Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is an integrated art and science program designed to teach wetlands habitat and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The program is a tool for children to learn about waterfowl and their habitat, and provides students the opportunity to demonstrate their artistic talents.

“We received 100 entries from 12 schools and 1 art studio last year and hope to increase that number for this year’s contest,” said Sandra Hall, coordinator for the contest in Hawaii. “We usually receive many nene drawings, but numerous other waterfowl species may also be depicted, including our native koloa and Laysan duck.”

Entries will be judged in four grade groups with awards being given to the top three contestants in each group. A State Best of Show will be chosen from the 12 first place winning designs and will compete in the national contest in Washington, DC. The first place national winner receives a \$5,000 cash award and a free trip to Washington, DC (Summer 2006) to attend the First Day of Sales Ceremony, along with one of his/her parents and his/her art teacher. The national first place winning design is used to produce the Federal Junior Duck Stamp.

The second place national winner receives a \$3,000 cash award; and the third place winner receives a \$2,000 cash award. In addition to the national awards for the State Best of Show art entries, cash awards will also be given for the best conservation message. The conservation message cash awards (\$500 for 1st place, \$300 for 2nd place and \$200 for 3rd place) will be chosen from the State Best of Show entries competing at the national level.

On a local level, art supplies will be awarded. “We’re also awarding art supplies to teachers of our top award winners so they get to benefit from the program as well as the students,” Hall said.

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The contest is modeled after the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, sponsored annually by the Fish and Wildlife Service, which selects a design for the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly known as the Duck Stamp). Waterfowl hunters on the mainland are required to purchase the \$15 duck stamp each year. The \$5 Junior Duck Stamps are not mandatory and all proceeds from sales go directly back into the conservation educational program.

Entries are welcomed from home-schooled students and art classes as well as schools. All entries must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2006, and sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Office, Room 5-311, Box 50187, Honolulu, HI 96850. For more information contact State Coordinator Sandra Hall at 808/792-9530.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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